

Remarks

Claim Summary

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 8 have been amended. Claims 2 and 7 have been cancelled.

Claim 1, 3-6, and 8-9 are pending in this application.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the indicated allowable subject matters of dependent claims 2, 3, 7 and 8.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1, 4, 5, 6 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hembree et al. in view of Hanamura et al.

The Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 5 by incorporating the indicated allowable subject matters of dependent claims 2 and 7, respectively. Thus mooting the claims rejection under §103(a).

Conclusion

No other issues are remaining, favorable action upon claims 1, 3-6, and 8-9 now present in the application are requested.

In the event that there are any outstanding matters remaining in the present application, please contact Linus Y. Park (Reg. No. 45,261) at (703) 715-0870 to discuss these matters.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment for any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0238.

Respectfully submitted,

Volentine Francos & Whitt, PLLC



Linus Y. Park
Reg. No. 45,261

Date: December 06, 2004

One Freedom Square
Suite 1260
11951 Freedom Drive
Reston, VA 20190
Tel. (703) 715-0870
Fax (703) 715-0877